

Senate Resolution 852

By: Senators Heath of the 31st and Smith of the 52nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Eli Robert "E. R." Bates, Jr. and dedicating a bridge
2 in his honor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its most distinguished citizens with the passing
4 of Mr. Eli Robert "E. R." Bates, Jr., on October 28, 2008; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Bates was born in Atlanta, Georgia, a beloved son of the late Robert Bates,
6 Sr., and Lois Hilderbrand Bates; and

7 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty during World War
8 II, and upon his return home he took over his father's business, Bates Hardware Company,
9 where he worked until his retirement in 1973; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Bates was active in his trade, belonging to associations such as the Atlanta
11 Retail Hardware Association and the National Retail Hardware Association, and served as
12 president of the Northside Business Association and the Georgia-Florida Retail Hardware
13 Association; and

14 WHEREAS, in honor of his 50 years of dedicated service to the hardware industry, Mr. Bates
15 was awarded the prestigious Gold Hammer; and

16 WHEREAS, he was devoted to his community and served as a civic leader as a member of
17 the Cartersville Chamber of Commerce, the Mason Lodge, the Yaraab Shrine Temple, and
18 the Elks Lodge #1969; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Bates was united in love and marriage for 59 years to his lovely wife
20 Wynell Hogeland Bates, and he was surrounded by the love of his daughter and son-in-law,
21 Linda and Chuck Walker; his adoring grandchildren, Tony, Kristy, and Christopher; and his
22 delightful great-granddaughters, Kayla and Ashlyn; and

23 WHEREAS, the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated provided the
24 foundation and framework of success in which all of his family members have developed and
25 flourished; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Bates will long be remembered for his
27 love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, neighbor, and friend will be
28 missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him and it is only fitting that a permanent
29 memorial be established in his memory.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
31 GEORGIA that the members of this body express their sincerest condolences to the family
32 and friends of Mr. Eli Robert "E. R." Bates, Jr. upon his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bridge on SR 113 at the Etowah River just west of
34 Cartersville be dedicated as the E. R. Bates Memorial Bridge.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
36 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the E. R. Bates Memorial Bridge.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of E. R. Bates and the
39 Department of Transportation.